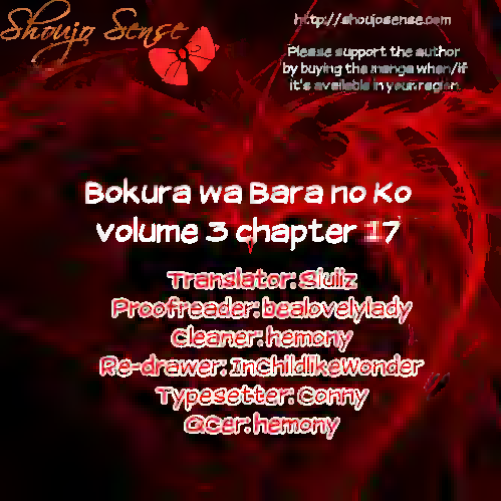
Shoujo Sense
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Bokura wa Bara no Ko
volume 3 chapter 17
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ONLY A LITTLE BIT FARTHER.
OH.
HIRAWA!
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT? YOU'LL GET LEFT BEHIND!
I'M COMING!

Chapter 17

though we can no longer talk about it like children.

Wizards, vampires, and aliens exist.

to become a baseball player or an idol.

Santa Claus will come down through the chimney

When you pull out the drawer, a robot cat from the future will come out

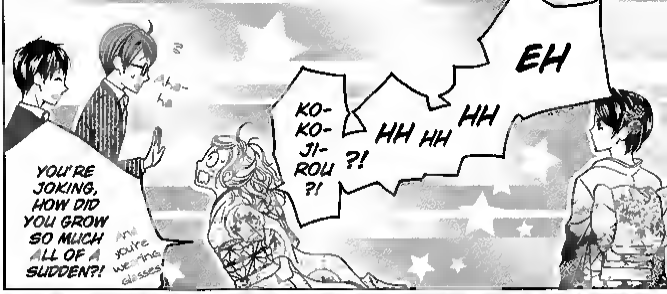
But in our hearts, we still believe it.

AND NOT LONG AGO, PEOPLE SAID I LOOKED LIKE YOUR OLDER SISTER
MOM
Stop it.
DAD,
MOM,
I'M REALLY THANKFUL TO YOU BOTH
FOR RAISING ME.
NOW, YUKINARI'S SO GROWN UP ALREADY.

*T/N: COMING OF AGE DAY IS A JAPANESE HOLIDAY HELD ANNUALLY ON THE SECOND MONDAY OF JANUARY. IT IS HELD IN ORDER TO CONGRATULATE AND ENCOURAGE ALL THOSE WHO HAVE REACHED THE AGE OF 20 OVER THE PAST YEAR, AND TO HELP THEM REALIZE THAT THEY HAVE BECOME ADULTS

I'm 185cm* now
I HAD A SUDDEN GROWTH SPURT IN HIGH SCHOOL.
YOU'RE TALLER THAN ME.
SFX: GLANCE
SPEAKING OF WHICH,
KOJIROU!
LONG TIME NO SEE!
YOU'VE GROWN A LOT
INORI THESE DAYS—
...TOO BAD HE DIDN'T COME—

RIGHT NOW,
HE'S WITH HIS MOM
AH?!
IS THAT SO...
I WANTED TO SEE HIM.
SAYA!
ARIKA!


EH
HH HH HH
KO-KO-JI-ROU ?!
YOU'RE JOKING, HOW DID YOU GROW SO MUCH ALL OF A SUDDEN?!
Are you're wearing glasses?

HAHA
I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU AT ALL!
AHAHA
True
MM
HOW ARE YOU?

I'M GOOD.
It's been a while
since we've gotten together.

That day,
although the police and a few adults searched the mountain,
we couldn't find her.
SHE'S ALIVE, FOR SURE.
THAT'S RIGHT...
SHE'LL BE OKAY.
AND STILL SMILING?
Everyone cried.

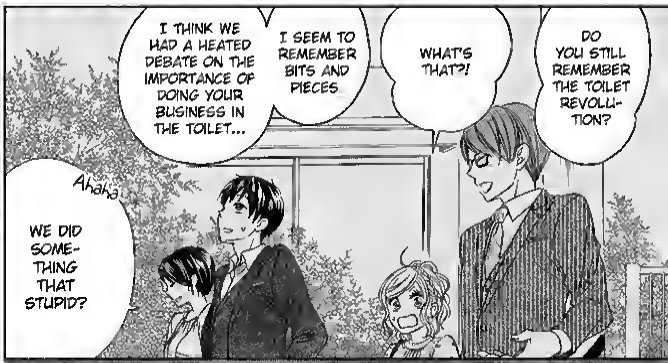
YUKINARI, YOU'RE GOING TO THE UNIVERSITY HERE, AREN'T YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?
CURRENTLY, I'M IN THE UNIVERSITY'S MIGRATORY BIRD SOCIETY
we were already going down different paths.
And so, from that day on,
no one talked about her again.
Ever since then,
we started to get together less and less.
When I realized it,

*THE HIDA MOUNTAINS ALSO CALLED THE NORTHERN ALPS OR JAPANESE ALPS, ARE A JAPANESE MOUNTAIN RANGE WHICH STRETCHES THROUGH 4 PREFECTURES
DOES THAT MEAN YOU GO HIKING UP IN THE MOUNTAINS?
RIGHT
WE'VE GONE TO MANY PLACES... WE WENT TO THE HIDA MOUNTAINS* DURING SUMMER BREAK.
WOW.
AMAZING!
West Japan's Alps!
YUKINARI HAS ALWAYS BEEN GOOD AT SPORTS ...
I ENVY YOU...
SFX: JUMP
AH, SPEAKING OF WHICH,
I HAD A CRUSH ON YUKINARI WHEN WE WERE IN GRADE SCHOOL.
EHHH?!
IS THAT SO?
Inu Kajiri
WHY IS KOJIROU MORE SURPRISED?
Wan!
AH, RIGHT.
I HATED EVERYONE EXCEPT FOR SAYA
EH?
ONLY IN THE BEGINNING
YEAH! I SOMEHOW REALIZED THAT!
EHH-HHH?
ARE YOU SERIOUS?

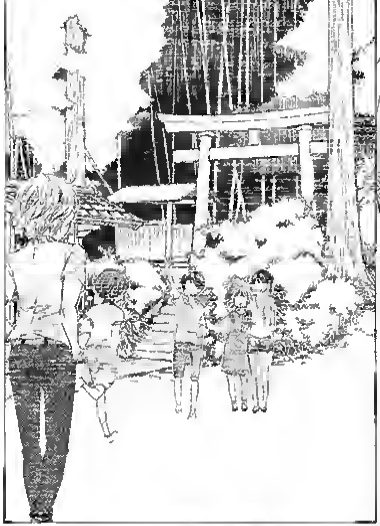
Every one of us became more like adults.
A lot of things have turned into mere memories.
ONLY NOW
CAN WE THINK BACK ON OUR PAST AGAIN
Arika is studying international studies at a university in Tokyo,
Saya graduated from a community college in Yamagata and started working this spring,
and Kojirou is studying at a technological institute in Ishigawa
Everyone went down different paths.
"Contact me once you've settled in."

to be honest,
After all these years that we didn't meet,
I didn't think that we would still be able to talk so naturally like this
SHOULD WE TAKE A STROLL LIKE WE USED TO?
THE WIND AT NIGHT IS NICE
あべちゃん
THE TIME WENT BY IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE
YOU'RE RIGHT
UM, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

WE ALL WALKED HOME ON THIS ROAD.
THIS IS THE ROAD WE USED TO TAKE TO SCHOOL. SO NOSTALGIC!
UWAH!


I THINK WE HAD A HEATED DEBATE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF DOING YOUR BUSINESS IN THE TOILET...
I SEEM TO REMEMBER BITS AND PIECES.
WHAT'S THAT?!
DO YOU STILL REMEMBER THE TOILET REVOLUTION?
Ahaha
WE DID SOMETHING THAT STUPID?

I ALREADY FORGOT ABOUT IT.



IT'S GONE.

I WAS STILL SO YOUNG AND

I WAS SAD WHENEVER I THOUGHT OF HER.

I NEVER CAME HERE AFTER,

SO I DIDN'T KNOW

I THOUGHT THAT IF I CAME HERE,

IT'D BE EVEN MORE PAINFUL.

BUT NOW...
IT'S MEAN, RIGHT?
I FELT SO MUCH PAIN.
"I already forgot about it."
the warmth we felt,
Back then,
and the innocent smiles...
the pain that was engraved into our hearts,
the tears we shed,
the words we exchanged

there's a feeling like a shooting star flying across the sky
Every time I think back on those memories
TO THINK THAT SHE USED TO ALWAYS BE BESIDE ME,
AND NOW I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER WHAT SHE LOOKED LIKE.
She really existed.
I TRY TO THINK,
WHAT DID HER VOICE SOUND LIKE?
SAME HERE.
SORRY

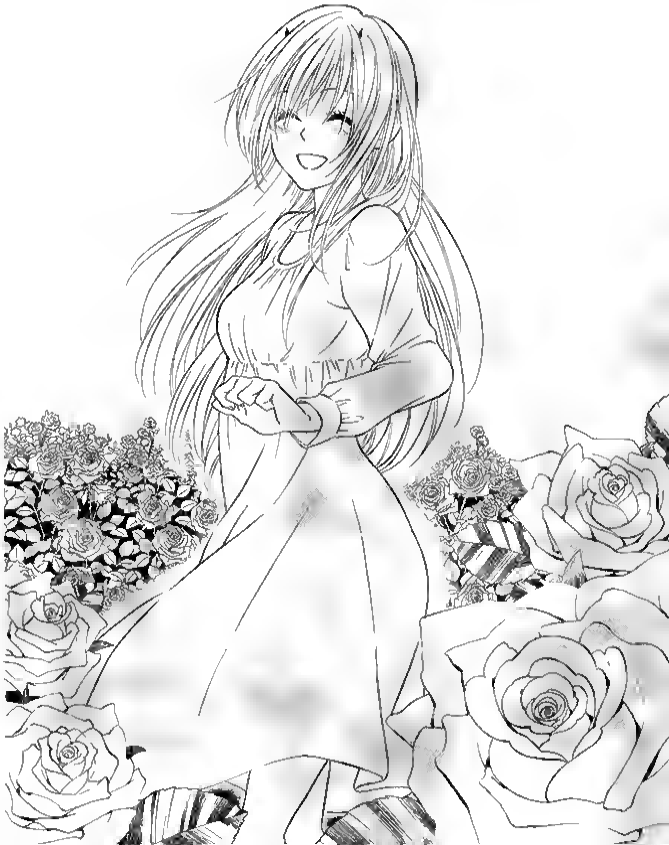
I'M SO SORRY...
Like how a wound will heal,
we can gradually forget you and become adults.
Even if it's lonely.
Even if we pray to not forget.
Rustle

Blowing with the wind,
I thought
I could smell the scent of roses.

"If you meet her on some mountain,
please tell her I wanted to say 'Thank you.'"
my hand couldn't hold onto yours.
and now I pray that I can hold onto
these fragments of memories.
That day,

even if I have to struggle.
Even so, I will pick up all the pieces.
I'll remember you no matter how many times they slip away,
One day,
they'll slip through my fingers and scatter on the ground
"If I could hold on a bit longer
to the parts of you that I'm clinging to, please don't disappear,"

"Barako."



LIM,
LET'S TAKE A BREAK HERE.
OKAY
PLEASE HAVE SOME, IF YOU WANT.
PFFT.
MR. TOUR GUIDE LIKES TOMATOES?
THERE'RE SO MANY!

HOW MANY YEARS OF HIKING EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE?
MORE THAN 20 YEARS NOW.
WOW.
IT'S BEEN A HABIT OF MINE TO BRING TOMATOES WHENEVER I CLIMB MOUNTAINS
SINCE A LONG TIME AGO.
EH?

AH... CAN YOU NOT LAUGH WHEN I TELL YOU?
ME?
HOW ABOUT YOU?
MHM.
WHAT WAS THE REASON YOU STARTED HIKING?
I MET A MONSTER IN THE MOUNTAINS.
WHEN I WAS YOUNG,
... BECAUSE THERE WAS SOMEONE I WANTED TO MEET.

AT THAT MOMENT
I HAD FALLEN AND HURT MY LEG.
I COULDN'T MOVE AND THE SKY WAS GETTING DARK,
SO I SAT THERE AND CRIED
BEFORE MY EYES,
A GIRL WITH RED HAIR APPEARED.
THAT GIRL PLACED HER HAND ON MY LEG LIKE THIS.
THE PAIN SLOWLY VANISHED AND I COULD MOVE AGAIN.
SO,
I RAN OFF.

YOU RAN OFF?
BECAUSE I WAS ALREADY VERY SCARED AT THAT POINT!
WHEN I LOOKED AT HER CLOSELY, SHE WAS A MONSTER WITH - UWAH - THORNS.
IF WE COULD MEET AGAIN,
IF WE COULD MEET ON SOME MOUNTAIN, I WANT TO TELL HER,
BUT NOW THAT I THINK BACK ON IT,
IT WOULD'VE BEEN NICE IF I HAD SAID IT BACK THEN.

'THANK YOU FOR BACK THEN.'

Shoujo Sense

I BELIEVE YOU.